

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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SUSPENSE

Date

Remarks

Executive Secretary

6/19/84

Date

3637 (10-81)

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DCI
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REG

C-387

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Executive Registry

84-2466

JUN 15 1984

MEMORANDUM

TO: Distribution List A

FROM: S/LPD - Otto J. Reich *OR*

SUBJECT: Press Reports on Attempt on
Eden Pastora's Life

Almost immediately after the assassination attempt on Eden Pastora's life, which resulted in the deaths of several innocent persons, the Government of Nicaragua accused the U.S. Government of responsibility. Such a baseless accusation is not worthy of response, but I thought you might be interested in some news items which point in a different direction--the possible involvement of a terrorist "hit squad" or individual working on behalf of the GRN or another terrorist entity.

This is for your own use and is not an official document, but there are many "coincidences" in the train of events surrounding the attempt which the international press is now reporting (and some which it still has not) which you may find interesting and useful in private conversations.

May 30 Attempt on Eden Pastora's Life

Documents noting events prior to the May 30 bombing.

1) March 12, 1984, interview with Alejandro Montenegro. Alejandro Montenegro, a former Salvadoran guerrilla leader who defected in 1983, stated that he knew that an attempt on Pastora's life was carried out by the ETA. In more detail he described an ETA operation in 1981 planned against General Jose Guillermo Garcia, then El Salvador's Defense Minister. The terrorists posed as journalists from a European magazine requesting an interview with General Garcia. The plan entailed employing plastic explosives hidden in video-cassettes; however, the attempt failed.

2) Chronology of terrorist acts in Costa Rica 12/80-83. On June 29, 1983, a Nicaraguan was killed and another seriously wounded when a bomb they were carrying in a car exploded. The two men were headed for a meeting with ARDE leaders.

3) Chronology of terrorist acts in Costa Rica 12/80-83. On September 8, 1983, Gregorio Jimenez, a member of the Basque Homeland And Liberty (ETA), was apprehended by Costa Rican authorities. He had drawings of Eden Pastora's residence, and was found to be part of an ETA commando group assigned to assassinate Pastora and other ARDE leaders.

4) September 20, 1983, cable from Madrid. Cable reported on news coverage in Spain concerning the arrest of ETA member Gregorio Jimenez and 11 other people. El Pais, a Spanish newspaper, reported that in the past, the Spanish Ministry of Interior had complained about Sandinista training of ETA terrorists.

5) February 16, 1984, Miami Herald article. Six Spanish Basques, reportedly of ETA's political-military wing, were transported to Panama from France at the urging of Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. Details on the six Basques' intentions or plans were not known.

6) May 27, 1984 FBIS report. Coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta Daniel Ortega stated that the CIA was planning an attack which would cause the deaths of Costa Ricans, and he gave the possible date as May 30. This is the same date of the assassination attempt on Eden Pastora.